

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01634 110956Z  
ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01  
NSC-05 OMB-01 DODE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 /049 W  
-----051738 111001Z /13  
R 080811Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9674

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1634

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AODE, MA  
SUBJ: EVALUATION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: (A) STATE 201122, (B) ANT 0590, (C) ANT 0591, (D) ANT 0912

1. MY EVALUATION ON EMBASSY STAFFING REMAINS AS STATED IN THE PARM (REF B). BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR PRESENT DAY RELATIONSHIP WITH MADAGASCAR, THE LAST ELEMENT IN THIS MISSION THAT SHOULD BE CUT IS THE CULTURAL ELEMENT, WHICH IS THE ONLY THING WE HAVE GOING HERE IN THE WAY OF A WIDELY-VISIBLE AMERICAN PRESENCE. THE DAO FUNCTION CANNOT BE CUT ANY FURTHER AND RETAIN ANY USEFULNESS AS IT TAKES AT LEAST THE MINIMUM OF TWO AMERICANS ACTUALLY ON STATION TO MAKE IT A VIABLE AND PRODUCTIVE UNIT. AS STATED IN THE PARM, THE VALUE OF THE DAO TO THIS POST RESULTS FROM THE TWO FACTS THAT (A) OUR MAIN INTEREST IN THE DRM (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR) IS IN ITS FUTURE FOREIGN MILITARY ORIENTATION AND (B) THE DRM'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP IS HEAVILY DOMINATED BY MILITARY OFFICERS.

2. THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION OF THE SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE IS THAT ANY FURTHER REDUCTION IN OUR AMERICAN STAFF SHOULD BE MADE IN THE EMBASSY PROPER, MUCH AS IT HURTS ME TO SAY SO. IF AND WHEN A REDUCTION BECOMES MANDATORY FOR THIS MINIMALLY-MANNED POST, IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE THE POSITION OF DCM. THIS WOULD LEAVE TWO SUBSTANTIVE STATE OFFICERS:  
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THE CHIEF OF MISSION TO DO THE POLITICAL REPORTING AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER TO PERFORM THOSE FUNCTIONS AND OVERSEE THE CONSULAR WORK. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY THE SITUATION AT PRESENT, THE CHARGE AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER BEING THE ONLY TWO SUBSTANTIVE STATE OFFICERS HERE. IT'S A STRAIN BUT IT COULD BE DONE ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

3. IT IS STRESSED THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY APPLIES  
O THE SITUATION AS IT IS NOW. SHOULD THERE BE A MOVE  
TOWARD NORMALIZATION IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD HAVE TO  
RECONSIIDER THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES BETWEEN THE CULTURAL  
EFFORT AND THE EMBASSY FUNCTION PROPER. THE RESUUMPTION  
OF BILATERAL AID, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD REQUIRE THE EMBASSY  
TO PERFORM AT LEAST A MONITORING FUNCTION AND THIS COULD  
JUSTIFY THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER, EVEN AT  
THE COST OF REDUCING THE USIS COMPLEMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS IS MY PERSONAL EVALUATION, IT HAS THE  
CONCURRENCE OF THE DATT AND THE PAO. BARRETT

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** AODE, MA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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